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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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PASS OIF/NMFS/NOAA/DOC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS,MX
SUBJECT: SHRIMP FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE AIR COMPLAINTS
ABOUT THEIR STATUS.

1. NEWS FROM MAZATLAN, WEST COAST QGOBJTANT SHRIMP CENTER, INDICATE SHRIMP COOPERATIVES COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR POOR ECONOMIC STATUS OWING TO TREATMENT BY GOM AGENCIES. THESE AGENCIES BANCO NACIONAL DE FOMENTO COOPERATIVO (BANFOCO) AND PRODUCTOS PESQUEROS MEXICANOS (PROPEMEX) RESPONSIBLE FOR COOPS PLIGHT BECAUSE OF HIGH INTEREST CHARGED ON LOANS AND SALE TO THEM OF UNSATISFACTORY FISHING VESSELS AND EQUIPMENT.

2. A COOP DIRECTOR STATES LOANS FROM BANFOCO ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER COST OF CONDITIONING SHRIMP VESSELS FOR THE NEW FISHING SEASON. CONSEQUENTLY VESSELS CAN NOT COMPETE PROFITABLY IN SHRIMP FISHERY. ALSO THAT BANFOCO CHARGES 12 PERCENT INTEREST ON LOANS AND 18 PERCENT ON PAYMENTS IN ARREARS. FURTHER, OVEREXPLOITATION OF SHRIMP RESOURCES AND POOR 77-78 SEASON AGRAVATE SITUATION.

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3. COMPLAINTS AGAINST PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S FISHERY AGENCY INCLUDED CLAIMS OF CORRUPTION AND FAVORITISM SHOWN TO PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATORS OVER COOPS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO PROPEMEX COOPS CLAIM THAT DURING PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION ONE HUNDRED SHRIMP VESSELS OPERATED BY THIS AGENCY AND LATER SOLD TO COOPS WERE OF QUESTIONABLE

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WORTH. MAIN ENGINES WERE ROLLS ROYCE WHICH COULD NOT TAKE POOR QUALITY OF MEXICAN FUEL, HAD TO BE CHANGED FOR CATERPILLAR'S AT COOPS' EXPENSE. OTHER EQUIPMENT SUCH AS RADIO AND REFRIGERATION, ALSO PURCHASED IN EUROPE, COULD NOT BE REPAIRED OWING TO LACK OF SPARE PARTS.

5. THE COOPERATIVE VICTORIANO MORALESIS MENTIONED AS OWING BANFOCO US$ 840 THOUSAND AT 12 PERCENT ON CURRENT LOAN, 18 PERCENT ON PAYMENTS IN ARREARS, PLUS ANOTHER 18 PERCENT ON SHORT TERM LOANS, USUALLY 30 TO 45 DAYS. HIGH OFFICIAL OF BANFOCO COUNTERS THE COOPS CLAIMS BY INDICATING FISHERMEN RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BY BANK ADJUSTING LOAN PAYMENT SCHEDULES AND EXTENDING PAY-MENT PERIOD WHEN CONDITIONS ARE UNFAVORABLE, AS IS THE PRESENT FISHING SEASON.

6. (LOU) OPINION OF RFA IS THAT PLIGHT OF COOPS IS MOSTLY SELF-INFLICTED THROUGH LACK OF MANAGEMENT SKILLS, LOW LEVEL EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING OF COOP MEMBERS, LACK OF PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR VESSELS, TOO MANY CREW MEMBERS PER VESSEL (6 AGAINST 3 IN COMPARABLE US VESSEL).

7. (LOU) PRESENT GOM DEPT FISHERIES ATTEMPTING CHANGE PRESENT COOP SITUATION BY SLOWLY CUTTING OFF EASY CREDIT AND THUS EVENTUALLY ELIMINATING LEAST PRODUCTIVE ELEMENTS.
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